

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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DRAFTED BY AF?S:KMCCORMICK:DH
APPROVED BY AF:RMOOSE
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 261116

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BC, US, RH

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE'S MEETING WITH
BOTSWANA FONMIN MOGWE, OCT 13

1. MR. MOOSE OPENED THE MEETING BY STATING THAT HE WAS
FLYING TO LONDON THAT EVENING AND VERY MUCH WANTED TO
DISCUSS CERTAIN MATTERS WITH MOGWE BEFORE DEPARTING NEW
YORK. IN LUSAKA, PRESIDENT MACHEL HAD SPOKEN OF THE NEED
FOR TWO "NEUTRAL FORCES" IN ZIMBABWE. ONE WAS OBVIOUSLY
THE UN, WAS THE SECOND A NEUTRAL PATRIOTIC FRONT FORCE?
THE QUESTION OF A "THIRD FORCE" WAS A MATTER OF GREAT
SENSITIVITY. THE U.S. HAD NO CANDIDATE IN ZIMBABWE AND WE
WERE AFRAID OF POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN THE FACTIONS
OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT.

2. MR. MOGWE NOTED THAT PREM CHAND HAD MET WITH THEM
YESTERDAY AND MIGHT BE VISITING THE FRONT LINE STATES AND
NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. AT PRESENT THE ZIMBABWE NATIONAL-
ISTS WERE VERY SUSPICIOUS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE FRONT
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LINE PRESIDENTS. THE SMITH-KAUNDA MEETING HAD INFURIATED
MUZOREWA. PREM CHAND SHOULD MEET WITH THE FRONT LINE
PRESIDENTS AS A GROUP FIRST, NOT SEPARATELY. IN THAT WAY,
THE PRESIDENTS COULD BE FORCED TO SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE.
IF PREM CHAND STARTED BY VISITING THEM INDIVIDUALLY HE

WOULD RECEIVE MANY SEPARATE VIEWS. PERHAPS SECRETARY

GENERAL WALDHEIM COULD WRITE TO PRESIDENT NYERERE AND REQUEST THAT SUCH A MEETING BE ARRANGED.

3. MOGWE EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE UK HAD NOT FOLLOWED UP AND EXPLOITED MACHEL'S CONCEPT OF A "THIRD FORCE". FREE ELECTIONS COULD NOT BE HELD WITH PRIVATE ARMIES IN THE FIELD. NYERERE SAID HE HAD 5,000 PEOPLE IN TANZANIA. WITH PROPER SCREENING, SUCH A GROUP COULD BE THE BASIS OF A NEUTRAL FORCE. PERHAPS THERE WERE SOME ACCEPTABLE ELEMENTS IN ZIPA. BOTSWANA FAVORED THE CONCEPT OF SOME FORM OF A THIRD FORCE. THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS SHOULD BE ASKED TO STATE THEIR VIEWS. NKOMO AND MUGABE WOULD OBJECT, AND NKOMO WAS A BIT FRIGHTENED BY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS.

4. MR. MOOSE STATED THAT OUR OVERALL APPROACH TO THE MILITARY QUESTION WAS THAT ON TRANSITION DAY SOME OF THE RHODESIAN FORCES UNDER NEW COMMANDERS WOULD REMAIN IN ZIMBABWE AS WELL AS SOME OF THE LIBERATION FORCES. THE POLICE WOULD ENFORCE LAW AND ORDER AND THE UN FORCE WOULD BACK UP THE POLICE. THE RHODESIAN AND LIBERATION FORCES WOULD BACK UP THESE TWO SECURITY FORCES. A NEW ARMY WOULD BE FORMED IN THE TRANSITION PERIOD AND MIGHT WELL PLAY A ROLE IN THE TRANSITION PERIOD ITSELF. THE FINAL DECISION ON WHO WOULD COMMAND THE NEW UNITS AND ON THEIR COMPOSITION WOULD BE LEFT TO THE NEW PRESIDENT. THE KEY QUESTIONS WERE HOW ONE COULD INTRODUCE A NEUTRAL FORCE AND HOW THE PROBLEM OF PRIVATE ARMIES COULD BE SOLVED.

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TIONS WERE HOW ONE COULD INTRODUCE A NEUTRAL FORCE AND HOW THE PROBLEM OF PRIVATE ARMIES COULD BE SOLVED.

5. MOGWE STATED THAT IN HIS VIEW NKOMO WOULD TAKE NO STEPS UNTIL THE TRANSITION PERIOD, AND THAT MACHEL WOULD HAVE PROBLEMS WITH MUGABE. THERE WAS SOME USE OF BOTSWANA'S TERRITORY BY PATRIOTIC FRONT FORCES PASSING THROUGH TO ZIMBABWE. THERE WAS NO SUCH THING AS A UNIFIED PATRIOTIC FRONT ARMY.

6. MOOSE NOTED THAT PATRIOTIC FRONT UNITY APPEARED EVEN FURTHER AWAY. MUGABE WAS UPSET OVER SMITH'S MEETING WITH KAUNDA. MOGWE STATED THAT MUZOREWA WAS SIMILARLY UPSET.

7. MOOSE STATED THE NECESSITY OF KEEPING DISCUSSIONS CENTERED ON HOW THINGS WOULD BE ARRANGED IF SMITH WERE GONE. IF ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE WORKED OUT, THE US COULD MOVE. HE REALIZED THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO PERSUADE MOGWE'S COLLEAGUES OF THE NEED TO SEPARATE THE TWO POINTS.

8. MOGWE RETURNED TO THE PROBLEMS OF A NEW ARMY, NOTING THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS KNEW THEY WOULD LOSE AN

ELECTION. IT WAS IN THEIR INTEREST TO CONTINUE THE ARMED STRUGGLE. WE WERE DEALING WITH PEOPLE WHO WERE NOT CONVINCED THAT A PEACEFUL TRANSITION WAS THE BEST WAY OF SETTLING THE SITUATION. NKOMO'S FORCES WERE FROM ONE TRIBAL AREA AND MUGABE WOULD LOSE MEN IN DEFECTIONS TO SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA.

9. MOOSE THEN RAISED THE QUESTION OF A US LIAISON OFFICER FOR LORD CARVER'S STAFF. WOULD THERE BE OBJECTIONS TO A LOW KEY US PRESENCE?

10. MOGWE STATED THAT HE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF THERE WERE NO US PRESENCE. HE HAD NO OBJECTIONS AND BELIEVED PRESIDENT KHAMA WOULD NOT OBJECT. VANCE
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